

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Janet Price / Legal Secretary

In the Application of Wolfgang Stein

Ser.No.: 10/593,168

Filed: September 15, 2006

For: Escalator Or Moving Sidewalk

Customer Number: 30996

Commissioner of Patents

Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.56, Applicant wishes to call the attention of the Examiner to the following references:

- 1) US4,811,829
- 2) US 2003/0116402
- 3) US 2002/0175039
- 4) JP 2004-018152
- 5) EP 1 273 548
- 6) DE 41 17 901 A1 and C2
- 7) DE 101 46 205 A1 and B4

8) DE 2 010 662

9) DE 25 19 310

10) DE 81 25 167

References 1-3 are all in the English language and therefore need no further discussion as to their relevance. In accordance with United States Patent and Trademark practice, it is no longer necessary to enclose copies of U.S. Patents.

Reference 4 is an abstract of a Japanese Patent and discloses an invention with the purpose of reducing the weight of a main frame, and reducing the assembly time of a main frame and rail of an escalator. The escalator is provided with the main frame having a pair of side frame bodies at right and left having an upper side part and a lower side part, and connected by a connecting member and having a slope and a horizontal part on both ends thereof; an approach side rail for guiding steps to an approach direction; and a return side rail for guiding steps to a return direction. A main chord material and the rails are integrally formed. A projection is provided on the center of the connecting member, so that a positioning reference for the rail is arranged.

Reference 5, EP 1 273 548, discloses an escalator or moving walkway with support structures wherein a pair of levers is individually mounted proximate the ends of the support structure (16). Each lever has a first arm supported by the building structure. A tensioned cable (3) between the second arms of the levers is additionally tensioned by the pivoting action of the levers with increasing load to increase the cable's supporting effect and reduce the bending of the support structure.

Reference 6, DE 41 17 901, discloses a supporting structure framework (1) for belt conveyors (11), especially for closed conveyors (11), which can be interconnected. Each

section (1) which is formed from a multiplicity of sections (1) is formed from a tube (3) which may be continuous or composed of a plurality of segments connected to one another and the end regions (21, 30) of which are provided with supports (4) which are displaceable on floor foundations. Above the tube (3) a continuous catwalk (14) is provided, which is displaced in relation to the tube (3) by means of gusset plates (25, 28). In the free region of the catwalk (14), a multiplicity of vertical rods (10) are provided, which serve to receive the sets of support rollers (12) for guiding the belt conveyor (11), especially the closed belt conveyor (11). The tube (3) is provided with undertensioning (2) or overtensioning (19) to permit great lengths.

Reference 7, DE 101 46 205 A1 and B4, discloses an escalator or moving sidewalk base (1) that has at least one termination region fitted with fixing or guide elements (2, 3), facing the escalator treads (15) or walkway plates, provided by a termination element (4) of a compound aluminum material with 2 spaced plate elements (5, 6) and intermediate polygonal reinforcing elements (7). The termination element can be provided with brush elements (16), lighting elements (13), e.g. LEDs and/or safety elements.

Reference 8, DE 2 010 662, discloses a construction for transportation means, such as moving sidewalks, escalators or the like, with a cladding that covers and protects the transportation means, as well as at least one drive and reversing means for moving the transportation means. The construction is supported via support devices on supports, and is provided with tracks for the transportation means. The cladding 1-4 itself forms the carrying element, on which the tracks 12 and drive means as well as further units are mounted.

Reference 9, DE 25 19 310, discloses a transport device, especially a conveyor belt, having rollers for supporting and guiding the belt. Two elongated I-beams are provided that form the framework of the transport device and between which are disposed and secured

the rollers 3 and their supports 2. The I-beams are composed of sections that can be interconnected by plates 13, 22 that are provided with screws. Pairs of plates 13a, 13b are provided, one of which is welded to one of the I-beam sections 15, while the other plate 13a is screwed onto the plate 13b and can be welded to the other I-beam section 14.

Reference 10, DE 81 35 167, discloses A support structure for a horizontal conveyor composed of individual components and forming a tubular construction that is closed in the longitudinal direction for accommodating the horizontal conveyor. Laterally of the horizontal conveyor space is provided for arranging longitudinally directed foot paths. In the longitudinal direction, the tubular construction is composed of sheet metal channel sections 10, which, where they abut, are interconnected via connection flanges. Each sheet metal channel section 10 is formed of four sheet metal sections 11, 12, 13, 14 that form the side walls of the sheet metal channel sections 10. From the longitudinal sides of the sheet metal sections 11-14, which abut one another in the corner regions, an angled-off connecting rim 19, 20, 26 is provided that is respectively connected with the adjoining sheet metal section 11-14 of the adjoining side wall.

References 1, 2 and 4 have been cited in the International Search Report and copies of these references have already been communicated to the USPTO by the International Bureau. However, copies are also being submitted herewith in order to provide the Examiner with easy access to said references.

References 3, 5-10 have been first cited by the German patent office in the counterpart foreign application.

It is herewith stated that no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the person signing the statement after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Information

Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Copies of the listed documents, with the exception of any US Patent references, are submitted herewith along with the form PTO-1449.

It is respectfully requested that any fees required and not enclosed herewith or any shortages in any fees be charged to Deposit Account 02-1653.

Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Robert W. Becker, Reg. No. 26,255
for the Applicants

Robert W. Becker & Associates
707 State Highway 333, Suite B
Tijeras, NM 87059

Telephone: (505) 286-3511
Telefax: (505) 286-3524

RWB/jp
Enclosures